Coalescent
TECHNOLOGIES

Date: June 16-19, 2003

Organization: PM, NBC Defense Systems
MARCORSYSCOM

Host: Sam Reding & Jack Hart

Coalescent: Mike Myers & Cathy Clements

Summary:

Monday, 16 June 2003

Coalescent traveled to Fort Worth to participate in a review of the newly developed Web-enabled NBC DEMP. The new DEMP is expected to be the interim solution for TAV until the GCSS-MC EAM module can be developed.

Tuesday, 17 June 2003

Coalescent traveled to the Joint Storage Facility (JSF) to observe the functional demonstration of Web-enabled NBC DEMP. NS Software is the developer and Mr. Jack Hart and his people were present. The agenda was slightly rearranged and at 1300, Mr. Walter Miller, DRMO Project Officer, led discussion regarding Mr. Hart's new DRMO program. This newly authorized program has no Joint funding at this time. The effort involved will be absorbed via 'collateral duty' assignment. The feeling is that the effort is approximately 8-10 weeks behind at this time. The draft SOP was presented for review/comment (Standing Operating Procedures for Surplus Nuclear Biological Chemical Defense (NBCD) Equipment Protective Clothing; dated 13 June 2003). This process anticipates one (maybe two) people at each of the four sites will be keying data into DEMP. Initial baseline is desired in 60-90 days.

At 1430, Mr. Hart introduced Mr. Ken Harper. Mr. Harper described the JSF Warehouse Management System (WMS) which he developed to enhance efficiency at the JSF for MARFORRES stocks. Mr. Hart owns this software (executable/source?). Mr. Harper brought out the difference between warehouse management vice inventory management. The JSF WMS is SQL Server back-end that was developed using the Visual Basic 6.0 Programming Language, client-server, but not web=based, and uses Crystal Reports™ for ad-hoc output. AIT is implemented (barcode identification and RF comms to server). Symbol scanners. Mr. Harper encouraged the use of JSF WMS for consolidated warehouse approach. In the event that DEMP is implemented, he underscored the need for warehouse management functionality.

Mr. Hart interjected that the WMS must interact with DEMP. DEMP will not go away. He also stated that the WMS/DEMP will support the DRMO sites. Mr. Hart mentioned that funding has been turned on and off over the last months.

Mr. Hart identified that the SRAC folks are interested in a configuration control board (Carol Chatham) exercise for DEMP.

Beginning at 1520, Mr. Michael Webb, NS Software, and GySgt Wilson, USMC, gave an overview of the new DEMP application. The Version 1.0 release candidate was demonstrated. In approximately two weeks, the software change requests made by Mr. Bryce & Mr. Hart & user community will be incorporated in Version 1.0 – on/about 01 July 2003. Client was developed via component architecture. ODBC architecture. There are 174 NSNs in use for NBC gear. This list is maintained by Albany. It doesn't have a direct link to FedLog. It was clear that the questions Coalescent/Bearing Point had were at a depth outside the realm of the assembled group. Mr. Hart directed Mr. Webb to 'connect' with Coalescent to ensure that all of their questions were answered.

The team adjourned at 1645.

Wednesday, 18 June 2003

The group assembled at 0800 for a JSF WMS demonstration and warehouse walk-through. The system is robust and manages receipt, stock, pick, and staging functions. While the WMS is expedient, the DoD Form 1348 is still the overriding document. All 1348's are reconciled via 100% receiving inspection by dock personnel prior to stocking the inventory. Any discrepancies are recorded and communicated to the Government client by warehouse management.

AT 1030, Coalescent, Bearing Point, and NS Software met to discuss the new DEMP application in more detail. DMEP was originally designed as a unit-level inventory management system and issue/retrieval system. It has grown in function and capability over the years.

	Function / Item	Online DEMP
Architecture	Database tool	MSDE (SQL™)
Architecture	Programming Language	Python
Architecture	Use Cases	Promised via GySgt Wilson (Requirements Doc & SOW)
Architecture	Security	Multiple users through same client; restricted by RUC; 1024 encryption; user restriction functionality present.
Architecture	Data Exportability	Into PDF; Excel™; Access™; flat text
Architecture	System Requirements Document (SRD)	Promised via GySgt Wilson (Requirements Doc & SOW & System Architecture diagram)
Architecture	Hardware requirements	Master server at each MEF level; individual thick clients on existing systems; ???
Architecture	Telecommunications requirements	Persistent connection; supports disconnected states. Uses PoP channels;
Feature	AIT API & Standards	Written & tested, not implemented; funding required for integration.

Feature	Update personnel	Listing of all Marines in RUC; allows for cleansing of the database
Feature	Stock, store, & issue	Bulk storage accountability – not a warehouse management system
Feature	Reporting	Incorporated Crystal Reports™
Feature	Individual custody	Yes; was available in original DEMP
Support	Administration	Functional – not implemented due to role definition – hierarchical data rollup
Support	Training	
Support	Deployment Plan	Begin in I/III MEF; complete TBD
Support	User Manual	On line help file

Single most important improvement since February is that it is web-based (real-time updates to central repository whenever disconnected clients are connected). The user interface has been improved. Training and DRMO features have been added. The DEMP manages ~3200 RUCs. The DEMP provides for calibration records, gas mask training elements, …

The current plan is to run pilot Hawaii and then NMCI certification is required. Two distribution CDs.

The team adjourned at 1145 for the airport.

Thursday, 19 June 2003

Coalescent met at Sverdrup (Dumfries, VA) to provide a SITREP and continue planning with Mr. Doug Redlich, Mr. Doug Davis, Mr. Dennis Litalien and Mr. Jere Brown.

Mr. Litalien provided a cursory overview of the 17 June 2003 meeting with General Reeves. The action items proceeding from that meeting included:

a) Mr. Kyle Cruley was requested to provide sustainment costs for the JAVS data warehouse effort. These estimates to be provided by COB Thursday, 6/18/03.

b) Mr. Bryce took the action to work with DoD AIT Office to assist in creating AIT standardization processes across the Services. There will be a briefing back to JPEO Board of Directors outlining this issue on 28 July 2003. Mr. Litalien will be conducting a teleconference with Mr. Nick Tsougas and Mr. Myers during week of June 23, 2003.

Mr. Myers summarized the JSF trip and notes from this meeting can be found the end of this document. Mr. Redlich identified the need for the system to interface with the MDSSII software/hardware. Major John Lawson (703-695-8871) is the MDSSII POC given. Mr. Myers will investigate NMCI certification of Web DEMP with Mike Webb of NS Software.

Mr. Doug Redlich and Mr. Litalien summarized the meeting held with Mr. Bryce on 18 June 2003, subject: centralization/consolidation. The TAV items of note proceeding from that meeting included:

a) Efforts are being brought together in a management cell

b) Money for reconstitution will be available on/about 01 July 2003

c) All gear will be managed: green, blue, white, etc.

Mr. Jere Brown identified Mr. Bryce's desire to form a cell for Centralized Management effort. The steering group will be comprised of Mr. Redlich, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Brown. Functional SMEs for NBC, IT, AIT, etc., will be defined.

Mr. Redlich groundruled real-time is defined as 24 hours.

JSF SitRep

17-18 June 2003

Purpose

- To observe functional demonstrations of the JSF Warehouse Management System (WMS) and the Web DEMP.
- To consider existing business processes at the JSF and their potential relevance to the centralized/consolidated management approaches under consideration
- To investigate the applicability of either/both of these systems for the interim TAV capability in support of NBC Defense reconstitution and centralized management.

19 June 2003

Demonstration Observations

- JSF WMS is a warehouse management system designed upon commercial best practices with a condensed feature set for warehouse-centric NBCD Equipment management.
  - Marine Corps-owned executable; SQLServer™ tool; Visual Basic 6™
  - Barcode interface supported for marking with RF data collection to the server
  - Receipt, store, issue, maintenance, record of equipment including shelf-life updates, stock location, manifest
  - Exports data to DEMP database file
  - Administration features include ad-hoc reporting via Crystal Reports™, management override functions, and system security.

- Web DEMP is an inventory management system designed for Unit-level NBCD Equipment management
  - Marine Corps-owned executable; MSDE™ tool; Python™; 1024-bit encryption
  - AIT interfaces written & tested, not implemented; funding required for integration.
  - Receipt, store, issue, maintenance, record of equipment including shelf-life updates,
  - Administration features include ad-hoc reporting via Crystal Reports™ with hierarchical data roll-up, user-level security is functional but user roles have yet to be identified by MARCORSYSCOM

19 June 2003

JSF WMS
System Documentation

- Business Process Brief (in hand)

- System Overview Brief (Slides from 18 June 2003 – nlt 20 June 2003)

- Interface to Web DEMP in development

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Web DEMP System Documentation

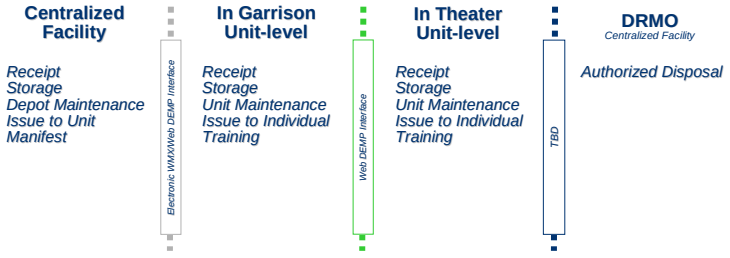
- System Architecture Diagram
- Requirements Document & SOW
- Telecommunication protocols
- To be delivered by GySgt Wilson nlt 20 June 2003.

19 June 2003

Immediate Interim TAV

•Assumptions

–No change to existing warehouse processes
–No change to unit-level equipment management processes
–By maintaining existing processes, implementation/training cycle times are greatly reduced
–I MEF Web DEMP pilot successful; JSF WMS/DEMP interface completed by 30 July 2003.
–Concerted Web DEMP deployment and training by September 2003.
–Centralized/consolidated management approach confirmed August 2003 (MROC review).



19 June 2003

Recommendations

- Document Web DEMP process to ensure standardization across Service
- Document requirements for centralization/consolidation effort to identify and define any ‘gaps’ that may exist between as-is system capabilities
- Investigate WMS/DEMP capabilities as compared to planned GCSS-MC EAM module.
- Fund implementation of AIT Interface for Web DEMP
- Close the loop with the NBC DRMO process to ensure TAV through disposal

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13 June 2003